

The Connecticut Libertarian

March 2001

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

www.lpct.org

Ballot Bill: Hearing Held, Awaits Vote

The bill that would allow the Libertarian Party of Connecticut and other minor parties to run candidates in 2002 without having to petition has had a public hearing and is currently waiting to be voted on by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee.

The public hearing was held on Feb. 9th. Since many bills fail each year from simply not being heard in committee, this was a great success.

Attending in support of the bill (HB5810) were Dawn Barry, Andrew Holl, and James Madison of the Libertarian Party as well as members of the Green Party and Concerned Citizens Party. About 30 others were there to speak on other bills.

Dawn, who homeschools three daughters, brought 6-year-old Kelsey along and accidentally found that it's a great way to be heard first. When committee chairman Sen. Fonfara realized that Kelsey would have to wait hours for mom to speak, he put Dawn at the top of the list.

In her statement, Dawn pointed out that she had only recently joined the Libertarian Party after years of being unaffiliated and that many others just like her would get more involved if minor parties were not unfairly burdened by the election system.

One of the most interesting supporters of the bill on the committee is Rep. Urban, who ran against Libertarian Mike Costanza last year. Costanza won 24% of the vote in a three way race. Urban said that Costanza was a great candidate who improved the quality of the race by making her work much harder during the campaign.

The bill must now be brought up for a vote in the committee at the discretion of the chairman. If it

is not voted on, it fails. If it is voted down, it fails. If it passes, it goes to the full assembly.

The last date for a vote in the GAE is March 19, 2000.

Wanted: 2001 Candidates

Hundreds of municipal offices are up for election this November, and the State Central Committee is looking for members to run.

This is a great opportunity to get the Libertarian name out in your town, to get your concerns into the political debate, and to change things where it can matter the most--right in your own back yard.

The offices tend to vary throughout the state, since Connecticut's 169 towns function independently. Offices generally include a chief executive, such as Mayor or City Manager; a legislative group, such as a Town Council or Board of Alderman; and issue-specific bodies, such as the Board of Education and Planning and Zoning (P&Z).

Local races offer a variety of hot issues that fit the Libertarian philosophy quite well:

Taxes & Spending: Cutting these applies locally just as it does at the state and federal level. Connecticut has some of the highest property tax rates in the country. Electing a Libertarian is the best way to change that.

Eminent Domain: Connecticut is a hot bed of land confiscation. Rowland threatened to do it to acquire the land for the Patriots, and currently in New London, people's homes are being threatened.

Education: While the separation of school and state might be tough to achieve as a lone local candidate, educational inefficiencies abound for the Libertarian to address. Many towns build new schools needlessly and have too many school administrators. We seem to be the only ones who read the studies that show class size reduction and spending increases don't work.

Zoning: Every zoning issue comes down to a question of property rights--which is the core of our beliefs. Who better than a Libertarian to sort that out.

Purely Local Issues: Every town has its own unique issues. Just pick up the local paper, see what makes you mad, then run on it!

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Justices of the Peace

In response to the request in the January newsletter, a total of 25 Libertarian Justices of the Peace have checked in with the SCC:

Town	Name
Bethel:	Billy Michael Wil Michael
Bethlehem:	George Eggert
Danbury:	John Woodruff
East Hartford:	Richard Connelly
Farmington:	Al Neves
Guilford:	Hugh A. Baird
Killingly:	David Morris
Middletown:	James Madison Vinnie Marotta
New Fairfield:	Andy Balbus
Oxford:	John Joy
Plainfield:	Gregory Sweeney
Plymouth:	Leonard Rasch Linda Rasch
Sharon:	Judge Manning
Stamford:	Dan Gislao
Thomaston:	Roger Katz
Waterbury:	David DeNicola
Windham:	Marvin Edelman Steven Edelman Ken Mosher
Windsor:	Mel Kopel
Woodbury:	Richard Antico
Wallingford:	Andrew Rule

If you are a JP and your name is not on the list, call 860-835-8334 and leave your name, street address, and e-mail address.

Doing Something? Write about it!

The Connecticut Libertarian welcomes submissions from members. Articles of 300 to 500 words with photographs are ideal. Send submissions or inquiries to TCL@lpct.org.

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Candidates

If you want to help build the party and improve your town by being a candidate or would like to just talk to someone about what would be involved, contact LPCT chairman James Madison at 860-635-8334 or JAMadison@lpct.org.

The process starts with some paperwork--now don't worry, despite being a government system, it's not like doing taxes. Call the Secretary of the State, Elections Division at 860-509-6100 and ask for the Petitioning Candidate Package. This will have both the needed forms and instructions.

Once you receive the package, contact James for a number of helpful hints and short-cuts through the process, including information on dealing with the press, your opponents, and getting your own message into its best form.

A few weeks after sending in the forms, you will receive the petition forms and the exact number of signatures required. The number will vary from a few dozen to a hundred or so, perhaps more in rare cases, and will be 1% of the number of votes cast for the office in the last election.

Once you have the signatures, submit them to the town clerk and you are on the ballot. The deadline for filing the petitions is August 8 this year, but the sooner you start the better.

Meeting Notice: The SCC will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, at the Wethersfield Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway (Route 99) in Wethersfield. All members welcome. Agenda:

- Minutes of last meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Chairman's Report
- Current Business
 - HB5810
 - Freedom of Information request
- New Business
 - 2001 Candidates

Directions: From North: I-91 South to Exit 28 (See Rt 5 & 15 South).

From South: I-91 North to Exit 28 (See Rt 5 & 15 South).

From East, I-84 West to Exit 57 (See Rt 5 & 15 South).

From West, I-84 East to I-91 South, to Exit 28 (See Rt 5 & 15 South).

Route 5 & 15 South: Take Exit 85 (Route 99/Silas Deane Hwy) South. At the 4th traffic light, turn right onto Church St. Turn into first driveway on left.